

Kentucky Child Fatality Review Newsletter



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WELCOME!!!

Teddy Slone joined the Department of Public Health in August 2010 as the Child Fatality Review Health Program Administrator. Teddy was previously employed with the Lexington–Fayette County Health Dept. in the STD program as a Disease Intervention Specialist. We believe she will be a valuable addition to our the Maternal and Child Health division. Please contact her with any questions/concerns or ideas you may have about CFR.

January is Birth Defects Prevention Month

A leading cause of infant mortality in KY and the US, accounting for more than 20% of all infant deaths. Each year, the estimated lifetime cost to care for the number of US children born with 18 common birth defects exceeds \$8 billion.

December is Safe Toys and Gifts Month

Safe Toy Checklist!!!

Young children are often injured from toys. There are three important ways you can protect your child from injuries while playing with toys:

1. Only buy toys meant for their age.
2. Show them how to use their toys safely.
3. Keep an eye on them when they play.

Toy Selection Guidelines

Before you purchase a toy:

- Read all warnings and instructions on the box.
- Ask yourself if the toy is right for your child's ability and age.
- Avoid purchasing toys with sharp or rigid points, spikes, rods or dangerous edges.
- Check the lenses and frames of children's sunglasses; many can break and cause injuries.
- Buy toys that will withstand impact and not break into dangerous shards.
- Look for the letters "ASTM." This means the product meets the national safety standards set by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM).
- Avoid toys that shoot or include parts that fly off. Remember that BB guns are NOT toys!

Before Letting Children Play with Toys:

- Inspect toys for safe, study construction.
- Explain how to use the toy.
- Fix or throw away broken toys.

Always:

- Keep young children away from toys meant for older children.
- Supervise your children while playing.
- Store toys properly after play to avoid risks or falls.
- Supervise children's craft projects (scissors and glue can be extremely dangerous.)
- Have children wear the right eye protection for sports (face shields, helmets, eye guards).

<http://www.preventblindness.org/children/safetoys.html>

<http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSC/PUB/PUBS/281.pdf>

National Survivors of Suicide Day is November 20, 2010

The problem of suicide knows no national or cultural boundaries, so we invite survivors from Kentucky to join with us in mutual support and healing at one of the following conference sites.

Louisville:

Jewish Hospital, Abraham Flex-
ner Way,
Louisville, KY 40202
Conference starts: 9:00am CST
Contact: Vince Gottbrath
502-777-7405,
angeljamie@insightbb.com

Owensboro:

Health Park, 1006 Ford Ave.
Conference starts: Noon, CST
Contact: Bob Robey
270-276-5531
bob.robey@gmail.com

Paducah:

Four Rivers Behavioral Healthcare,
425 Broadway
Conference starts: 11am CST
Contact: Linda Thompson
270-559-3480
thompsonjanes@yahoo.com
<http://zackshope.com>

Newsletter

UofL Pediatrician Passes New Board Exam in Child Abuse Pediatrics



502-852-6171
NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Jan. 29, 2010

Anne Eldridge, 502-852-0943

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LOUISVILLE, Ky. – University of Louisville pediatrician Melissa Currie, M.D., has passed the 2009 child abuse pediatrics certifying exam, making her one of a handful of physicians nationwide who are certified in this newly designated medical specialty. She was among approximately 200 physicians who took the first exam in November 2009.

“Dr. Currie’s new credentials bring greater authority to her role as chief of UofL’s forensic pediatrics division. I’m glad to see her expertise recognized,” said Gerard Rabalais, M.D., chairman, UofL Pediatrics. “Kentucky needs every advantage as we struggle to come to grips with our status as the nation’s leader in child deaths from abuse and neglect.”

Dr. Currie is a 1999 graduate of the University of Louisville School of Medicine. She completed a pediatric residency at Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals in 2002 and an extra year of training under a widely recognized expert in child abuse at Medical College of Wisconsin. She spent two additional years on the faculty there, providing around-the-clock coverage for the Child Advocacy Consult Service at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin.

Dr. Currie has been chief of U of L Pediatrics’ child abuse team since it was created in September 2007. The team interviews caregivers, examines and photographs patients, reviews old records, produces court-worthy documents and testifies in court.

She is a member of the Jefferson County Child Fatality Review Committee, Physical Abuse Multidisciplinary Team, Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky Board of Directors, Commonwealth of Kentucky Child Fatality Review and the Kosair Children’s Hospital Child Abuse Task Force.

Congratulations to Madison County for Being Designated As An International Safe Community!!!

On Tuesday evening of the 23rd of March, Madison County was officially designated as an International Safe Community by the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion. Madison is one of no more than 10 counties in the United States, and the first in Kentucky, to receive the designation.

The Safe Community label indicates that “Madison County has acquired the capacity to take thoughtful and strategic action to reduce the frequency and severity of injuries ... and add value to the life of every one of its citizens,” stated Paul Kells, WHO’s Safe Communities chief for North America.

The same day the high school staged its annual Ghost Out, a dramatic exercise in which students are randomly singled out by a figure dressed as the Grim Reaper and pronounced “dead” by Madison County Coroner Jimmy Cornelison from injuries suffered in an alcohol-related automobile accident. The Ghost Out, which is done at all local high schools, is one example of many collaborative efforts by local officials and groups, in this case, the school districts and the coroner’s office, coordinated by the coalition, Jordison said.

“This is a great honor for our community,” says James Rousey. “This community is blessed to have a county government, two city governments, and dozens of organizations that are working collectively to make Madison County a truly safe place to live and work.”

A special thanks to the Madison County Safety Coalition providing a summary of this event.

For more information or read the complete article visit:

<http://richmondregister.com/homepage/x878592374/Madison-County-s-safety-efforts-recognized-by-WHO>

For more information on how to make your community a safe community please visit:

<http://safecommunitiesamerica.org/international.aspx>

<http://www.safecommunities.org.nz/>

<http://safetycoalition.madison-co-ky-health.org/>



CPSC Announcements

WHAT'S HOT!!!

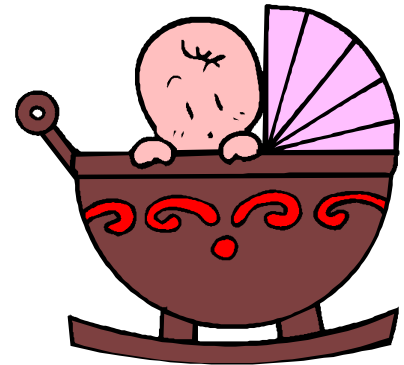
Drop Side Cribs:

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) joined three child safety organizations at New York Presbyterian/Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital to release "Safe Sleep for Babies," a new crib safety video aimed at helping all new parents avoid suffocation, strangulation and entrapment risks in the sleep environment. CPSC also is announcing three new recalls of dangerous drop-side cribs. CPSC is collaborating with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Keeping Babies Safe (KBS), New York- Presbyterian/Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital, and renowned journalist and mom Joan Lunden to educate new and expectant parents and caregivers on crib safety while they are at the hospital or visiting their pediatrician's office. The video demonstrates how to keep babies safe and sound in cribs, bassinets and play yards.

"There is no greater concern for a parent than our children's safety," said Joan Lunden. "I am honored to be working with the CPSC, the AAP, and Keeping Babies Safe to bring this information to parents across America."

In order to create a safe sleep environment for your baby, the video urges parents and caregivers to follow these crib safety tips below:

- Place infants to sleep on their backs
- Use a firm, tight-fitting mattress
- Never use extra padding, blankets or pillows under baby
- Remove pillows or thick comforters
- Do not use positioning devices – they are not necessary and can be deadly
- Regularly check cribs for loose, missing or broken parts or slats
- Do not try to fix a broken crib
- Place cribs or playpens away from windows and window covering cords to avoid fall and strangulation hazards.
- Place baby monitor cords away from cribs or playpens to avoid strangulation.



For more information on this article please visit: <http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSC/PUB/PREREL/prhtml11/11021.html>

Infants Can Strangle in Baby Monitor Cords :

WARNING!! Parents and caregivers need to be informed about the dangers of placing baby audio and video camera monitors too close to cribs, bassinets, play yards and other safe sleep environments for babies. Since 2004, CPSC has received six reports of infants who were strangled by baby monitor cords placed too close to the crib. The most recent death occurred in March 2010, when a 10-month-old female from Washington, D.C. became entangled in the camera monitor cord next to her crib and died of strangulation.

CPSC offers the following safety tips to prevent deaths and injuries associated with baby monitor cords:

- Use a wireless baby monitor to avoid risk of strangulation.
- If using a baby monitor with cords, make sure all cords are out of arm's reach of your child.

NOTE: These tips are important even if your baby is not yet standing or mobile.

Safety tips for other corded products

- Examine all shades and blinds in your home. Make sure there are no accessible cords on the front, side, or back of the product. CPSC recommends the use of cordless window coverings in all homes where children live or visit.
 - Do not place beds, cribs, play yards and other furniture close to windows because children can climb on them and gain access to window blind cords.
 - Keep wall decorations with ribbons or streamers away from cribs and well out of reach of children. Remove all drawstrings from the neck and hood area of outerwear or jackets of young children, as they pose a strangulation hazard.
- <http://www.cpsc.gov/>

Sleep Positioners: A Suffocation Risk

Deaths prompt CPSC, FDA warning on infant sleep positioners:

The two main types of infant sleep positioners are flat mats with side bolsters or inclined (wedge) mats with side bolsters. Both types of sleep positioners typically claim to help keep infants on their backs and reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). The FDA has never cleared an infant sleep positioner to prevent or reduce the risk of SIDS. In addition, CPSC and the FDA are unaware of any scientific studies demonstrating that infant positioners prevent SIDS or are proven to prevent suffocation or other life-threatening harm.

"To date, there is no scientifically sound evidence that infant sleep positioners prevent SIDS," said Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, FDA Principal Deputy Commissioner and a pediatrician. "We want to make sure parents, health care professionals, and childcare providers understand the potential risk of suffocation and stop using infant sleep positioners."

Sleep positioners also typically claim to do one or all of the following:

1. aid in food digestion
2. ease colic or the symptoms of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)
3. prevent flat head syndrome (plagiocephaly).

In light of the new safety data, FDA believes any benefit from using these devices to ease GERD or prevent plagiocephaly is outweighed by the risk of suffocation.

CPSC and the FDA are warning parents and child care providers to:

- **STOP** using sleep positioners. Using a positioner to hold an infant on his or her back or side for sleep is dangerous and unnecessary.
- **NEVER** put pillows, infant sleep positioners, comforters, or quilts under a baby or in a crib.
- **ALWAYS** place an infant on his or her back at night and during nap time. To reduce the risk of SIDS, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends placing infants to sleep on their backs and not their sides.

The American Academy of Pediatrics does not support the use of any sleep positioner to prevent SIDS.

Manufacturers of infant sleep positioners with medical claims that have not been reviewed by the FDA should stop marketing those products until they submit, and the FDA clears, appropriate premarket review submissions, including necessary safety and effectiveness data.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/onsafety/2010/09/sleep-positioners-a-suffocation-risk/>



Question of the Month

Q: Are teens who have previously attempted suicide at high-risk for suicide completions?

A: NO! While a previous suicide attempt does increase the likelihood of a future attempt being successfully completed, the fact is, the majority of successful suicides are first-time attempts.

Please send suggestions or articles that you would like to see included in the newsletter. We welcome the chance to highlight your activities, overviews of your program, local team achievements, projects that have come from local reviews, etc.

Send to:

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